5th July 1952]

Government Hospital, Tanjore.

* 39 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the patients in the Government Hospital, Tanjore, are lying down on the floor for want of beds; and

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to increase the number of beds?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) Like many other medical institutions in the State, the Raja Mirasdar District Headquarters Hospital, Tanjore, is also overcrowded. The sanctioned bed-strength of the hospital is 500 while the daily average attendance of in-patients is 800. Chronic and other patients who are not very ill, are accommodated on mats on the floor instead of being sent away without treatment for want of beds.

" (*b*) The question of increasing the bed-strength of the hospital is under consideration. Further, the construction of a maternity ward of 36 beds is nearing completion and it will, to some extent, relieve the existing congestion."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM:—" Are the Government constructing the maternity ward? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The Rotary Club is constructing the ward."

SRI G. LATCHANNA:—" Is the same position existing in any other hospital and if so, what do the Government propose to do to remedy it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Hospitals are nowadays overcrowded. Every year the bed strength of a few hospitals is being increased and additional staff employed."

SRI A. RAMASWAMY THEVAR:—" May I know the reasons for postponing the construction of the extension to the Gandhi Memorial Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, and when the Government propose to continue the construction in view of the growing population? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Will the Government consider the suggestion to make cheap constructions for convalescent patients in order to relieve congestion in hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" It is under consideration. Sir."

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a This portion has been expunged by the direction of the House —vide page 528 infra